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Prieto-Robles London Conversations

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DATE ACQUIRED mid-October to 11 December 1947

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Foreign Radio Broadcasts

Commentaries by Aracil, Moscow's Spanish-language commentator, have been the only monitored broadcasts to date indicative of Soviet reaction to the reported London conversations of Indalecio Prieto and Jose Maria Gil Robles. Excerpts from these commentaries, one of which appeared on 21 October and the other on 11 November, follow:

MOSCOW, IN SPANISH TO EUROPE, OCT. 21, 1947, 5:30 P.M. EST

(Commentary by Aracil, "Who Creates Them and Why Do They Unite?")

"The paper ALIANDE, which is published in Marseilles, recently reported the amazing news that Indalecio Prieto is solving questions relating to Spain without requiring any intervention on the part of the Spaniards. Today there are people who want to solve Spanish affairs without the participation of Spaniards in the same way as they claim to solve those of Greece... by crushing the Greeks with armed intervention. As regards Spain, Prieto possibly heads the list of people who concentrate the focal point of Spanish policy in the English-speaking chancelleries. For Prieto, the legitimate Republican institutions in exile are of no account, or, if anything, only for one thing, namely for his activities against them and for those from which he excludes them."

"In his opinion, the seat of the Presidency of the Spanish Republic is not in Paris but in London.... The gap which separates Prieto from Gil Robles has apparently been considerably shortened. After Prieto, Bevin saw Gil Robles. No doubt the personalities and the policy of the visitors differ, but their schemes and objectives coincide. Both aspire at depriving the Spanish people of the Republican solution and at prolonging indefinitely the reaction in Spain."

"The aims of Prieto are extended toward those of Gil Robles. With this embrace they want to suffocate the democratic will of the Spanish people. But what does this reflect? It proves that the Prieto group of Spanish Socialism has become once and for all the face of reaction."

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MOSCOW, TO SPANISH TO EUROPE, NOV. 11, 1947, 4:30 P.M. EST

(Commentary by Aracil)

"Ultimately Prieto issued a note stating that nobody had mentioned having reached agreement with Gil Robles or even of having seen him. In the same note he added that no details had been revealed of the outcome of his conversations with Bevin in London. From this we can at least deduce that nothing good can emerge from the filthy boiling pot of compromise.

"When in Toulouse Prieto announced his plan to abandon the cause of the Spanish Republican institutions, the Spanish Communist Party in public statements and in its press denounced the Prieto maneuvers as an attempt to break up the unity of the democratic forces and to replace the democratic solution for which the Spanish people are fighting by a reactionary issue by which the essence of the Franco regime could be saved and at the same time the interests of British imperialism and Yankee expansionism in the Iberian peninsula.

"Soon it became clear by his philanderings with the monarchists and Gil Robles and by his ministerial interviews in Paris and London that Indalecio Prieto was the instrument of certain chancelleries which favored solving the infamous Franco problem by keeping the Franco regime.

"It would seem that in this respect Prieto did not reach the mark. What happened was that the energetic voice of the Spanish Communist Party made itself heard. It interpreted the feelings of the great majority of the Spanish people and of the resistance. It unmasked the Prieto plan. It warned the people against what this plan would lead to. It opposed the Prieto tactics of disuniting the Spanish working classes....

"All the Prieto anti-Communist preachings did not blind certain men inside and outside of Spain to the fact that Prieto's anti-Communism concealed the same as does Franco anti-Communism; namely, the hatred of democracy and fear of the people. Prieto had relied on Gil Robles, Bevin, and Bideault, but he had not taken into account the Spanish patriots who are fighting to liberate their country from the Franco yoke.

"The reactionary forces on which Prieto relied are undermined by internal contradictions. Different sections are fighting for the hegemony of power and it is also obvious that the principles of foreign aid clash because British imperialism, like that of the United States and French reaction, have their respective objectives in Spain.

"Have all the perils threatening Spanish democracy disappeared? Does the Prieto trip to Mexico mean that these plans have been abandoned? Not at all. But it is now obvious that it is not an easy matter to make the Spanish people forsake the road of their struggle. It is also clear that the working classes and the true anti-Franco forces must consolidate their unity and increase their struggle so as to hasten the overthrow of Franco and so that there is no return from journeys undertaken by people like Prieto."

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